



## Social exclusion and women

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### ABSTRACT

India is a Patriarchal society. India has a base of gender discriminated society. In spite of high growth and development and modernity the patriarchy still remains in Indian Society. In India women are regarded as the inferior gender to men. Women are always discriminated in the society. Since birth till death women are oppressed by male persons in the family. Their rights are not properly used by themselves. So it is the duty of the Government to provide all helpful facilities to obtain all types of rights in the society.

### Key Words

Social Exclusion, Patriarchy, sexual division of labour, exploitation, DPSP, Domestic Violence.

### SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Social exclusion is the state of living in very poor conditions and being excluded from facilities, benefits and opportunities that others enjoy. Individuals and groups are denied access to facilities and options available to the general public through the social exclusion.

It is a situation where not everyone has equal access to the opportunities and services that allow them to lead a decent happy life. This includes not being able to give input and have their voice heard on the rules of the society in which they live

Social exclusion is the process in which individuals are blocked from various rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available to members of a different group and which are fundamental to social integration and observance of human rights within that particular group

Social exclusion can arise through long term persecution and through membership of certain identifiable different social and ethnic groups. This phenomenon creates barriers to Education for children and especially for girls.

Social exclusion causes deprivation and oppression which are discriminated. It creates inequality and injustice in the society. Women as a social group are excluded from occupying high positions in social, economic and political sphere.

## EXAMPLES OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION

- A person who is homeless may be excluded from social activities and relationship because of their lack of housing.
- A person with disability may be excluded from employment opportunities because of their disability.
- A person from a minority ethnic group may be excluded from social network and relationship because of their ethnicity.
- A young person from low income family may be excluded from educational opportunities because of their financial situation.

## SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND WOMEN

India is a patriarchal societal state. Here patriarchal values and rules have created obstacles for Equality between men and women. Caste, religion, sex, language are the base of exclusion in society. Social stratification exists in all societies which treat some groups or more important than other groups. Men occupy superior Social status than women and enjoy power, privilege prestige in society. Rights and privileges of women are not recognized i.e education, health and nutrition of girls child is neglected. Patriarchy, caste, Joint family are the institution which allow the difference between male and female. Viewing social exclusion as process induced and sustained by dominant structural forces. It leads to a state or outcome wherein social, economic, political, religious and health institutions. ( Jose and Maheswari, 2012)

At a large, women suffer from economic exclusion in society. Sexual division of labour has confined women to gender roles and deprived of occupational choices and freedom They do all their household works as a commitment. Instead of the rule of Equal Pay for Equal power in Directive Principles of State Policy they are paid less than male counterparts in rural as well as urban areas. Art. 15 prohibits all types of discrimination. Art. 16 provides equal opportunities to all in public employment.

Generally women are victim of all types of social exclusions. They have to sacrifice a lot for their family. They have to leave their work to care of their family. The economic inequality can be seen in the society.

## STATUS OF WOMEN

Status of women shows that the overall development of the society. In 2011 census the sex ratio was 943 for 1000. Kerala and Puducherry having highest and Haryana has the lowest sex ratio.

According to 2011 census the male literacy rate is 82.14% and female literacy is 65.46%. In India female literacy is low due to unfavourable attitude towards education. Girls are not sent to schools and for higher education. For this problem Indian Government has started Sarvasiksha Abhiyan and Art. 21 (A) which says that according to Art 45 the state shall provide free and compulsory education to all the children upto the age of 14. It is a fundamental duty of every parent to send their children to school to get free and compulsory education.

In the family also the reproduction, sterilization and abortion rights of women are controlled by the male members of the family. Women are always treated inferior to men because of patriarchal values and norms of the society. Women are treated as an object of sexual gratification. They are insecure in society due to domestic violence, harassment at workplace, etc. If a woman is a divorcee or widow, then she faces more exploitation than anyone.

Social exclusion leads to anxiety, loss of self esteem and deprivation among women. It has a negative impact on their social status as well as psychological condition.

Taking birth as a girl in Indian society is regarded as a curse for women. They get exploitation at the starting age of their life. Female infanticide is the most common practice of killing girl child inside the mother's womb. Women are regarded as a burden for their parents and husband's. They have to go

extra miles than men to prove themselves equivalent to men. Till now there are many parents who prefer to have only boy baby and allow them education to boys only. Women for the are only medium to keep happy and healthy. A women is seen in the society with more intense ridicule sight and become at higher risk of honour killing if she is involved in the love marriage. Dowry and bride burning is another problem faced by women of low or middle class family during or after the marriage. In 2005naround 6787 dowry death cases were registered in India. Girls have no property rights like boys forever. Inadequate nutrition in the childhood affect women in later life especially women belonging to the lower middle class and poor family.

According to the report of crime Records bureau of the Central Home Ministry , women is getting kidnapped at every 44 minutes , raped at every 47 minutes, 17 dowry cases everyday. Women who are uneducated are more prone to divorce or even and destitute by their husband's on any stage of life. They have to a life with a fear of divorce. In some cases they have to finish their life because of unbearable conditions. Many policies are made by Government to protect women from all types of exclusions.

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian constitution its preamble, fundamental duties and Directive Principles of State Policy. The constitution not only grants equality to women but also empowers to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women.

The national commission of women was set up by an act of parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal e titlements of women. The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment of 1993 have provided for reservation of seats for women in the local bodies of Panchayats and municipalities laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

Indian government has started many more schemes for the women so that women can not be a victim of social exclusion. They are as follows.

1. PMVVY-Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

It is a policy to provide cash incentive for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mother.

2. SWADHARGRUHA

It is to provide relief and rehabilitation to destitute women and women in distress.

3. UJJAWALA

A comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking and for rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

4. WORKING WOMEN HOSTELS

It is for ensuring safe accommodation for women working away from their place of residence.

5. BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

It was launched with initial funding of Rs 100 crore the scheme aims to address the issue of the declining sex ratio image and is a national initiative run jointly by the majority of women and child development.

6. EQUAL REMUNERATION ACT 1976

The act provides the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers and for the prevent from discrimination on the ground of sex against women in the matter of employment and matter connected there with or incident there to.

7. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

The Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 is an act of the parliament of India enacted to protect women from Domestic Violence. It was brought into force by Indian Government and ministry of Women and Child Development on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2006.

#### 8. SELF HELP GROUP

The scheme of Self help groups was started by Indian Government in 1972. It is a financial intermediary Committee usually composed of 10 to 25 local women between the age of 18 and 40 . It provides women to empower themselves economically and have a better standard of life.

The major reasons for sexual exclusion in the society are poverty, disability and unsocial child upbringing. For the better social life people should work tirelessly in eradicating most of the problems. As social exclusion can have a variety of negative effect on a person's mental and physical health. It should be regarded as a serious issue and try to resolve it.

